

# Responding to the Needs of Students with Language Barriers Through Instructional Methods and Enhanced Educational Opportunities

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## Assistive Technology and Enhanced Educational Opportunities:

- Improved mobility and ease of use of assistive technologies enable special needs learners to become increasingly more independent and successful in and out of the classroom.
- Development of augmentative, adaptive communicative technologies improve everyday communication for students with physical disabilities, speech and language impairments, and autism spectrum disorders

## Essential Factors for Effective Assistive Technology Implementation by Teachers:

- Student-first mindset
- Opportunities to learn and work with technology
- Open-minded dispositions
- Belief in the efficiency and benefits of technology
- Small-step mentality



### Abstract:

With increasing diversity and inclusion in the classroom, decreasing language barriers among students becomes vital to ensuring their success. We will explore how assistive adaptive technology for special needs students and different instructional models for ESL and ELL students have enhanced their educational opportunities to combat language barriers.



## ESL/ELL instructional methods for teachers to use in order to teach these students effectively:

### *Peer discussion groups:*

- Group discussion led by students
- Language is used in a meaningful way because the purpose is to have the students teach other students about certain topics

### *Read-Alouds:*

- Speaking out loud is emphasized
- Helps develop vocabulary by requiring the students to use the new vocabulary learned to express their own ideas and share personal experiences

### *Literature Circles:*

- Students are divided into groups based on piece of literature of choice
- Each student is assigned a role that helps focus their attention while reading which is what they will be teaching to the group

*All three methods provide opportunities for students to engage and work with new vocabulary. Additionally, the students are required to speak English out loud when teaching others.*